

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee
Lower Conference Room, Building 30

March 12, 2014

6 – 7:30 pm

MPAC Members Present: Julianna Ross, Peggy Printz, Tom Kelly, Loren Hill, Colby Bradley, Pete Zimmerman, Diana Kincaid, Aaron Hoard, Morgan Collins, Ed Bronsdon

General Public: Several guests were in attendance

Seattle Parks Staff: Andy Scheffer, Cheryl Fraser, Brian Judd, Katie Gray, N District Parks Crew Manager, Isabel Hamilton

MPAC Chair Julianna Ross called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Minutes from the February 2014 meeting were unanimously approved (with one typo being noted).

Building 9 Report: Pete Zimmerman reported on a recent Building 9 tour and post tour meeting. A number of resident mix options are under consideration -- including Veterans, ADA compatible, 50-80% of median income – all hoped for, but no guarantees at this time. What types of services may be available in the center part of the building? Perhaps some kind of education center? Fare Start cafe? Parking is going to be an issue no matter how the Building 9 refurbishing may be mapped out. Next meeting is March 27 when a possible RFP may be available.

Major Maintenance Report: Seattle Parks Staffer Andy Sheffer presented the following...

- **Building 308** at the south end of the park, “Magnuson Crew and NE District Parks Crew” building quarters (near updated wetlands), near NE 65th Street. There’s a lot of opportunity to utilize this building, just make it better. Volunteer groups may also be able to use some part/s of the building. All of the funding may be secured by 2015. An architectural drawing was shared which included two possible exterior restrooms. A cost proposal to have the building be a two floor building is also under consideration by Seattle Parks. There may be more car trips to and from this building with the building being updated. There may be some “yard” impacts for a vehicle washing/rinsing station with the building. Tom Kelly inquired about lighting around the exterior of the building. There may be an opportunity for some environmental education associated or near this building.
- **North shore area Electrical upgrades:** Lots of progress here. No contamination is being found.
- **A new concrete pad connecting the Tennis Center and the sports fields has been completed.** Bike corrals are on order. Some new and improved crossings along Sportsfield Drive are pending.
- **An improved wetlands area from Lake Shore Drive through to the outdoor tennis courts** is pending, but no funding expected for several years. Currently, a lot of water flow is sent through pipes 60 feet into the lake instead of natural surface flow directly to the lake.

Public Benefits:

- Discussion: Are public benefits being met by some of the private partners that are using Magnuson Park as the base of operations for their businesses? Cheryl Fraser noted that many of the park’s private partners are required to submit annual reports on these benefits. The Mountaineers, Seattle Musical Theatre, Arena Sports, and Tennis Center Sand Point are some examples where public benefits are spelled out into their leases. One business that’s original set of planned for public benefits that has not been able to be fulfilled is Arena Sports. Some of the

benefits spelled out in their original contracts cannot be met once final build out specifics for their facility were changed. How does a business then provide associated / alternate benefits? The Mountaineers have provided significant public benefits with the outdoor climbing wall on the south side of their building. Most of the other private entities who are tenants in Magnuson Park do not have these benefits built into their contracts. Isabel Hamilton noted, though, that many do provide public benefits in any case; for example:

- Bats Northwest...help protect the bat population through education and research
- Cascade Bicycle Club...promote safe cycling, free helmets, educate youth, presentations to schools and more.
- Pro-Motion Events...produces event planning for fun runs for community fitness and for which many local nonprofits use for their fundraising.
- Seattle Musical Theatre...free and discounted tickets.
- Thistle Theatre...free and discounted tickets.
- Earthcorps...environmental restoration and stewardship.
- Gymboree...scholarships for those in need.
- Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group...a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest
- Music of Remembrance....producing Holocaust musicians and their art.
- Northwest Arts Alliance (formerly Northwest Crafts Alliance)...regularly scheduled craft fairs
- Outdoors for All...enriches the lives of children and adults with disabilities through outdoor recreation – ensures people of all abilities have access to outdoor recreation
- Sail Sand Point...camps and low cost programming, especially for youth
- Plant Amnesty...professional gardening referrals and gardening guidance.
- YMCA...before school and after school youth programming and scholarships; hundreds of kids enrolled in their summer day camps.
- Tennis Center Sand Point ...free lessons for youth and seniors with economic need

It was also noted that longtime **Seattle Parks Employee Isabel Hamilton** will be retiring in April. All present gave a hearty and collective thank you to Isabel for her amazing dedication to the community of Magnuson Park.

Discussion followed over concerns of some private partners of Magnuson Park. For example, Tennis Center Sand Point has signs up saying that their bathrooms are only to be used by their customers. It is not in their contract that these bathrooms must be available to members of the general public but many at MPAC felt that their policy to limit the use of the restrooms was a “slap in the face” to the community of park users. Tom Kelly recalled that at the past MPAC meeting with the Tennis Center developer it was said that the restrooms would be open to the public.

It was noted that \$9 million in value in improvements were made when the tennis center was built.

Others noted that The Mountaineers made over \$5 million dollars of improvements and that their restrooms are open to the public including bus stop users, public climbers, pedestrians; though this building is not as centrally located in the park as the tennis center.

Email Voting Post-Mortem: Julianna reviewed how this process was beneficial. A vote to formalize this voting option process likely will be forthcoming at a future MPAC meeting.

Legacy meeting update: Created a community that can work together from many different viewpoints. Diana Kincaid bragged about MPAC process of collaboration with Seattle Parks. A recommendation would be to go to City Council and make our case known. It was suggested that if people wanted to still influence the process to call City Council Members, especially Sally Bagshaw, Jean Godden and Tom Rasmussen. Diana also noted that she did vote to support a Metropolitan Parks District; an interlocal agreement would be recommended to be attached to the ordinance itself.

Director's report

MPAC Bylaws and Terms: Brian Judd reported on MPAC bylaws and committee membership terms. He reviewed a draft proposal for a staggered schedule for these terms. Cheryl Brown and Brian both noted that MPAC Secretary Gail Chiarello was particularly helpful in drafting this info.

NOAA Road update: Cheryl, Diana, Brian and Kevin Bergsrud made a presentation to NOAA about the benefits of opening the NOAA access road. In attendance were various NOAA HR reps, Labor as well as US Congressional staff members. Unfortunately, the presentation was not met with a very positive response by those present. They asked for more studies. It is the opinion by many that enough time and money has been spent already (\$100,000 so far) and waiting further would not be responsible to citizens. Seattle Parks staff will be formulating some internal strategies to precipitate an answer. Ed Bronsdon noted that he believes that it is unconscionable and perhaps illegal for selected NOAA employees to continue act to prevent park users of all abilities from accessing the entire park. Parks staff said that they would email out the presentation that they used for members to review.

The Washington Recreation and Parks Association / WRPA annual conference is coming April 8 -11 to Magnuson Park with hundreds of parks professionals from across the state; this conference is being held in association with the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Circulation sub-committee update: Loren discussed an overview of factors out there on a circulation plan. There is currently no comprehensive plan; there is a list of key issues in the park from a community meeting from two years ago – does anyone know where these notes may be? A lot of upgrades and changes have occurred in the last few years. Perhaps this sub-committee would be well served to draft a brief scope of work of issues? There was a discussion that the park may not need lots of signs but instead, perhaps ten key sectors in the park with information kiosks? All agreed that the NOAA access road is a key lynch pin for park circulation. The subcommittee will meet again next month (April 9) at 5 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Next MPAC meeting is set for April 9.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ed Bronsdon.